

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SABLEFISH CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW PHASE 1

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed Agenda Item C.6 a., pertaining to the Fixed Gear Sablefish fishery and heard presentations from Ms. Ariel Jacobs, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); Mr. Jim Seger, Pacific Fishery Manage Council (PFMC); and comments from Mr. Dayna Matthews, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE).

ELECTRONIC FISH TICKETS:

The GAP recognizes there is a need for timely documentation of sablefish catch against limited entry (LE) tier limits, LE daily trip limit (DTL) and open access (OA) DTL. The GAP agrees the current accounting system for the landings of all three groups is inadequate. To highlight just a few of the problems: 1) federal fishery permit numbers are not currently required in all three states; 2) paper receipts have a 2-4 month lag time between landings and when data is available in the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN); 3) The time lag in data is filled in with estimates based on previous year's landings; and 4) the current system is incapable of distinguishing which are DTL landings and which are tier landings.

For the purpose of analysis, the GAP feels there is a sufficient range of alternatives presented. The GAP agrees with the NMFS recommendation to remove from further analysis the suboptions that allow for a federal system that utilizes paper tickets.

The GAP recommends the Council adopt as a preferred preliminary alternative (PPA) Action Alternative #4 from [Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2](#), that would implement a federal electronic fish ticket reporting program for fixed gear commercial sablefish limited entry tier limit landings, limited entry DTL landings, and open Access DTL landings.

OWNERSHIP/CONTROL:

Currently, limited entry tier permit ownership is limited to three permits. The GAP reviewed the options presented and reviewed the analysis. The GAP recommends that the Council adopt as a preliminary preferred alternative Option 2a (Page 9 of [Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2](#)).

This action would allow a current owner of three permits (Owner A) to acquire up to 20 percent ownership in another vessel, on which limited entry tier permits are being fished. The permit(s) that are owned by another person (Owner B) and being fished on the vessel in which Owner A has up to 20 percent interest, would not count against Owner A's limit.

This option does not allow a person or a business to acquire title to more than three permits, which is status quo. It would allow an owner of three permits to own 20 percent of another boat – which has permits assigned to it – other than the three permits he already owns.

The option would allow a person or a business currently holding three permits to acquire up to a 20 percent interest in two different boats.

FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH PERMIT STACKING PROGRAM REVIEW:

There was discussion in the GAP as to whether there were any modifications to the fixed gear stacking program to be brought before the Council for consideration in their review of the program. There were none.

PFMC
04/06/14